

Joint Strategic Framework Vietnam

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Glossary

CSO	Civil Society Organisation
ECE	Early Childhood Education

FBP	Food-Borne Parasite
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HE	Higher Education
IA	Institutional Actor
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
JCA	Joint Context Analysis
JSF	Joint Strategic Framework
MOET	Ministry of Education
MoH	Ministry of Health
MSc	Master of Science
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training

1. Introduction

This Joint Strategic Framework (JSF) Vietnam is based on the Joint Context Analysis (JCA) Vietnam, which was approved by the Minister of Development Cooperation, Mr. De Croo, end of December 2015. The items listed hereafter are part of the JCA and will thus not be included in this JSF: context analysis (JCA pgs.12-46), analysis of relevant stakeholders (JCA pgs. 47-53), the strategic goals and approaches (JCA 61-67), risk analysis (JCA pgs. 68-71), identification of the opportunities for synergies and complementarities between accredited organisations (also including common partners) (JCA pgs. 72-81), description of the JCA-process –which serves as basis for this JSF– and in particular the elements that prove the active participation of accredited organisations and their local partners (JCA pgs. 9-10).

The participants have consulted various strategy and policy documents during the realisation of the JCA, such as the strategy papers on Middle Income Countries and on Gender of the Belgian Development Cooperation, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2015, it was announced that Vietnam will no longer be a partner country of the Belgian Development Cooperation. The participants have taken note of the fact that an exit note describing the exit by 2019 is currently being reviewed by the Minister, but hasn't been made public yet up until today (20 April 2016).

The JCA Vietnam referred to the JCA Decent Work and referred to the intervention domain 'Labour and social inclusion', highly relevant in Vietnam. The JSF Decent Work includes overall strategic goals with regards to decent work for a number of countries. Vietnam is included as one of the countries in which the joint strategic approaches with regards to decent work will be implemented. Engagements with regards to synergies and complementarities between civil society organisations (CSOs) and institutional actors (IAs) of the JSF Decent Work and the JSF Vietnam will be included both in the JSF Decent Work and the JSF Vietnam. In that sense, both JSFs are complementary and should be read together. Together, they form one overall strategic framework for Vietnam.

11 CSOs and IAs have participated in this JSF; Rikolto adopted the position of 'lead' during the writing process. The list of participants is attached. For the realisation of the JSF, the participants used the methodology which was proposed in the Manual developed by 11.11.11 and CNCDC, which was distributed on 8 February 2016. The process to elaborate the JSF consisted of email exchanges, individual exchanges between participants and between participants and their partners, and exchanges via the Google Docs platform. It is important to note that local partners in Vietnam previously participated in the elaboration of the JCA, the basis of this JSF, and are currently being implied in the elaboration of the programmes of all participating CSOs and IAs.

The CSOs and IAs active in the realisation of this JSF Vietnam are equally carrying out actions in Belgium. For this reason, their partners and actions in Vietnam also have an impact on their actions in Belgium: they fuel and "legitimise" the actions taking place in Belgium.

It is important to stress that the corresponding legal framework was not published at the launch of the process (8 February 2016), nor at the finalisation of the JSF-process (20 April 2016).

2. Joint strategic goals

Three joint strategic goals have been identified, revolving around the following sectors: agriculture, health and education. 'Environment' and 'gender' are considered as cross-cutting themes, and are considered at the level of each joint strategic goal. Human rights and children's rights are of interest to many CSOs/IAs,

but not their main working areas. For this reason, just as in the JCA, they are not part of a joint strategic goal, although synergies around rights-based approaches are likely.

2.1 Description of the Joint Strategic Goals

Joint strategic goal 1	Contribute to a dynamic <u>agri-foodsector</u> where different stakeholders are providing quality and safe produce in a sustainable manner both for domestic and exports markets, hence contributing to economic, social and environmental development, and ensuring consumer's right to safe food.	
Approaches ("Contributions to the goal")		CSOs/IAs
1A	Improve capacities with regards to sustainable production techniques, food safety quality control mechanisms, business and marketing of small-scale farmers.	ARES, Rikolto, WWF
1B	Advocate to the government to develop pro-poor sustainable development policies that enable improved livelihoods for small-scale farmers.	ARES, Rikolto
1C	Build win-win, lasting relationships between farmer organisations and other chain actors, including private sector actors and financial institutions, with the aim of creating more inclusive value chains.	Rikolto
1D	Reinforce youth involvement and gender equality in the agricultural sector.	ARES, Rikolto
1E	Build up consumer involvement in value chains by supporting government of (pilot) cities to transition towards food-smart cities where smallholder farmers are included in safe food chains and consumers have easy access to safe food, and by building the capacity of consumer protection organisations to better represent consumers on matters related to food safety.	Rikolto
1F	Improve resilience of small-scale farmers and other stakeholders to the consequences of climate change on agricultural and natural ecosystems, including amongst others the protection of natural resources (as soil, water, forests, biodiversity,...).	ARES, RBINS-CEBioS, Rikolto, WWF
1G	Adopt a multi-stakeholder approach to solve recurring problems in the rural/agricultural sector.	Rikolto

Joint strategic goal 2	Ensure that the <u>health system</u> in Vietnam reaches international standards, especially in regard to tropical diseases, birth defects and road/food/workplace safety.	
Approaches ("Contributions to the goal")		CSOs/IAs
2A	Build capacity of health actors at all levels, including professionals, universities, CSOs, training of trainers, etc. Produce evidence based results to inform health authorities and programs	ARES, ITG

2B	Improve quality control for the delivery of services and admin/finance management at all levels.	ARES
2C	Support behavioural change at community level through community-based training programmes for laypeople (first aid, water, hygiene, sanitation, health prevention), and continuous hygiene promotion via media, events and campaigns.	ARES, Plan
2D	Improve capacity of health actors (including the MoH) to respond to current and future health threats through training, technical development and evidence based results.	ARES, ITG
2E	Strengthen health research capacities (including control and elimination of parasitic diseases) through support in the implementation of laboratory quality assurance systems and training of junior scientists to MSc and PhD level by promoting gender equality.	ARES, ITG

Joint strategic goal 3	Ensure an inclusive and quality education¹ and research system for all and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.	
Approaches (“Contributions to the goal”)		CSOs/IAs
3A	Empower rights holders (parents and community dwellers) and strengthen the participation and competences of duty bearers (Early Childhood Education school leaders, teachers, decision makers) to improve access to and quality of pre-school education for all children.	Plan, VVOB
3B	Provide pre-service and/or in-service training (leadership, governance, research, ...) for teachers, researchers, faculty staff and other qualified school staff.	ITG, VVOB
3C	Improve the quality and provision of higher education through capacity building and partnerships in a gender sensitive and environmentally sustainable way.	ARES, RBINS-CEBioS, VLIR-UOS, WWF
3D	Improve research practices of higher education institutions through capacity building and partnerships in a gender sensitive and environmentally sustainable way.	ARES, ITG, VLIR-UOS, WWF
3E	Promote extension and outreach of academic research.	ARES, ITG, VLIR-UOS
3F	Strengthen individual capacities through relative gender-balanced scholarship attribution.	ARES, ITG, RBINS-CEBioS, VLIR-UOS
3G	Motivate education and research actors to promote a gender	ARES, Plan, VLIR-UOS,

¹ Including Early Childhood Education, Technical Vocational Education and Training, General Education and University Education.

	equal, inclusive (children with disabilities, minority groups), an environmentally sustainable approach (e.g. in the design of interventions) and/or a safe school environment adapted to climate change challenges.	VVOB
3H	Build capacity of local duty bearers and advocate to national authorities to improve the quality of teaching and research methodologies.	Plan, RBINS-CEBioS, VVOB, VLIR-UOS

2.2 Argumentation based on the developmental relevance

Joint strategic goal 1	Contribute to a dynamic <u>agri-food sector</u> where different stakeholders are providing quality and safe produce in a sustainable manner both for domestic and exports markets, hence contributing to economic, social and environmental development, and ensuring consumer's right to safe food...
<p>Agriculture is a key sector in the Vietnamese economy, and remains the largest source of income for the majority of the Vietnamese population, although declining. To date, 70% of rural households rely on agriculture for their livelihoods. But Vietnamese farmers continue to face many challenges, and addressing these is of vital importance to improve their income and livelihoods. Challenges range from low quantity, low quality, unsafe production; low capacities with regards to business skills, technical skills with regards to production, post-harvest handling and adding value; severe suffering due to climate change; lack of access to financial services; lack of rural infrastructure and price fluctuations to limited environmentally-friendly production practices; the existing opportunities for more inclusive business relations between private companies and smallholders; consumers do not trust safe vegetables sold in markets, and safe food can hardly be found in the shopping places. Furthermore, government policies tend to favour the private sector, which poses a threat if farmers are not organised as business actors in the chain, and private actor sourcing policies that are not inclusive towards small-scale farmers. These last need support in the set-up and running of their business. For a full overview of these issues, we refer to the JCA Vietnam, chapter 3.6.1. and 4.3.1 (pgs. 17-19, 30-31). This strategic goal is related to the following SDGs: 1, 2, 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 15.</p>	

Joint strategic goal 2	Ensure that the <u>health system</u> in Vietnam reaches international standards, especially with regard to tropical diseases, birth defects and road/food/workplace safety.
<p>Health expenditures represent 6% of Vietnam’s GDP. The leading causes of overall mortality, beside road injuries, are acute respiratory infections, diarrhoea and neglected tropical diseases (e.g. malaria and parasitic infections). Since 2012, the country is working towards eliminating malaria from all provinces by 2030, but challenges such as spread of drug resistance and asymptomatic infections remain and must be tackled with new approaches and strategies (view JCA chapter 3.6.2, pgs. 19-21). Foodborne parasite (FBP) infections are prevalent, mostly in rural Vietnam, with a lack of diagnostic capacity at provincial and local levels. Other issues include access to good drinking water and sanitation and negative effects of pollution. Especially in rural areas, the situation of children with disabilities is problematic. Vietnam has a general ambulance call number, but responses are slow and the material is often only limitedly available or outdated. Also, first aid training to the general public remains a major element in augmenting the public resilience to disasters and emergency situations: it can add to the emergency care resources that are available at a later stage in the emergency situation and improves the capacities of the Vietnamese population in handling emergencies as road accidents or disasters. Furthermore, in Vietnam, large disparities in the accessibility of the health system exist due to socio-economic (ethnic minorities and poor/rich) and geographical (rural/urban) inequalities, such as locally limited available services, human resources and limited emergency response capacity in rural and ethnic minority areas. Gender inequalities in health care are less of an issue. This strategic goal is related to the following SDGs: 3, 5, 6, and 10.</p>	

Joint strategic goal 3	Ensure an inclusive and quality education and research system for all and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
<p>The Vietnamese educational system consists of formal education and non-formal education. Educational levels and training qualifications of the national educational system include: Early Childhood Education (ECE), General Education including primary education and secondary education, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Higher Education (HE). Research is also carried out in many research institutes, often linked to universities. Over the past years, enrolment rates in all types of education have increased remarkably, although both attendance to ECE and HE remain low compared to other countries (respectively 73.51% and 24.6% in 2012). Social and geographic disparities remain a cause of concern with regards to access to education and quality of education: disadvantaged and vulnerable children, including ethnic minority children, migrant children and children with disabilities, have less access to quality facilities, qualified teachers and sufficient instructional time and often lack education possibilities in their mother tongue. Gender in terms of access to schools is not really an issue in Vietnam, except in some remote areas. The above disparities exist in ECE, general education and TVET and equally translate into HE. Some other key challenges in the Vietnamese educational system include overcrowded classes, under-qualified teachers, understaffed institutions, affordability (especially of HE), impossibility for graduates to meet the demands of the labour market with the attitudes and competencies taught in education and lack of environmental education, but also low quality standards (lack of sufficient, good quality facilities and equipment). For a full overview of the challenges present in each level of education, view JCA chapter 3.6.3 (pgs. 21-24). The Ministry of Education (MOET) acknowledges these disparities and currently focusses amongst others on the development of a labour force capable of handling complex technologies, improving educational contents and pedagogical approaches, increasing the quality of the educational system, capacitating teachers, bringing disadvantaged and vulnerable children into school, strengthening foundational skills and vocational training and reinforcing the research in universities (view JCA chapter 4.3.3 and 5.3.3, pgs. 32-35, 42-45). The strategic goal proposed in this JSF is furthermore closely related to the following SDGs: 4, 5, 8, 9.</p>	

3. Engagements with regards to synergies and complementarities

Synergies and complementarities	Between CSOs & IAs	Between CSOs & IAs and INGOs	Between CSOs & IAs and the Belgian Development Cooperation ²
Cross-cutting			
- Ad hoc meetings (in Belgium or Vietnam) to share knowledge about programmes and the legal and policy framework in Vietnam.	x	x	x
- Participation in VUFO-INGO platform to inform each other and share knowledge.		x	
- CSOs & IAs engage in joint advocacy to the Belgian Development Cooperation on their country development strategy.			x
- Jointly promote research on climate change mitigation, natural resources, biodiversity.	x	x	x
- Development of knowledge, research and innovation on health, and putting this research into practice.	x	x	
- Development of knowledge, research and innovation on agriculture, and putting this research into practice.	x	x	
- Jointly promote awareness on disabled people's rights in Occupational Health and Safety in the workplace.	x		
- Sharing information on Early Childhood Care and Development initiatives in education and child care.	x		
On the level of joint strategic goal 1			
- (Co-)organise (inter)national workshops/seminars on topics related to inclusive business models, certification systems, sustainable agriculture, ...		x	
- CSOs and IAs exchange on rights-based approaches in the Vietnamese context.	x		x
On the level of approach 1A			
- Sharing of documentation and good practices on value chains and marketing.		x	
On the level of joint strategic goal 2			
- Information exchange on one or more of the following topics: first aid, prevention, prevention of infectious diseases, health programs, emergency/disaster preparedness, rehabilitation of disabled people, road safety, ...	x		

² Considering the fact that Vietnam is an exit country, it is difficult to envisage synergies between CSOs/IAs and the Belgian Development Cooperation. That being said, the central themes of the cooperation for 2017-2021, "rightsbased approaches" and "sustainable and inclusive growth", are also of interest to most CSOs/IAs.

- Information exchange on MSc and PhD training of junior scientist to strengthen health research.	x		
- Exchange lessons learned on capacity building of local authorities to engage in behavioural change at community level to improve nutrition, health care, hygiene and sanitation and first aid training programmes for lay-people.	x		
- Jointly build capacity to improve responsiveness to current and future health threats.		x	
- Jointly produce and communicate evidence-based results to inform health authorities.		x	
On the level of joint strategic goal 3			
- Link education with a rights-based approach to increase impact.	x		
- Information exchange on ECE-related topics: quality, pre-and in-service teacher training, role of parents, ...	x		
- Pool ECE expertise for effective and efficient ECE teacher training and school leadership.	x		
- Twin-track approach in which several CSOs/IAs team up to support a specific sector, in this case the ECE sector, reinforcing each other's efforts (focus on community development vis-à-vis focus on system strengthening).	x		
- Information exchange about equity for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups/ethnic minorities, with a focus on gender.	x		
- Actors will seek opportunities for synergy and complementarity in the areas of capacity development, research, technology transfer and scholarship opportunities	x	x	x
- Encounters between CSOs/IAs and the academic world will be stimulated in order for interested academics and other actors to meet each other and seek opportunities for complementarity and synergy.	x	x	x
- Actors will continually seek for opportunities for academic projects that are in synergy and complementarity with the interventions of other Belgian actors.	x	x	
- Actors share the results of research with other actors (for potential extension/upscaling).	x	x	

4. Annex - List of participants 2017

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* Oxfam participated as an observer for the JSF Decent Work

CEBios and WWF participated as observers as they receive different funding, not through D3. CEBios via D8 – WWF via the embassy.